

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10447 251039Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OES-07 PRS-01 SS-15 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4931

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10447

FOR KUX (NEA/INS) AND CHAPMAN (CU) FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (NARAIN, RAJ)
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF HEALTH MINISTER

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 10326; (B) STATE 17015

1. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF RENEWED FAMILY PLANNING EFFORT HERE AND ALSO OF NEW RURAL HEALTH CARE SCHEMES NOW IN PREPARATION, I HOPE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO MINISTER RAJ NARAIN TO VISIT THE U.S. IN THE LATTER PART OF AUGUST CAN BE RE-CONSIDERED. WE ARE TOLD THAT HE HAS OFFICIAL INVITATIONS TO VISIT SWITZERLAND AND WEST GERMANY THAT MONTH AND THAT HE EARLIER HAD AN OFFICIAL REPEAT OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE UK WHICH HE COULD NOT ACCEPT.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IF THE USG EXTENDS AN INVITATION AND THE GOI APPROVES ACCEPTANCE, THE LATTER WILL COVER INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS. PROBLEMS THEN ARE THOSE OF SCHEDULE AND HOSTING, NOT OF FUNDING. COULD NOT NIH OR OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICE OF HEW BECOME SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED TO EXTEND INVITATION AND MANAGE MINISTER'S SCHEDULE, WITH SECRETARY CALIFANO'S ROLE BEING LIMITED TO HOSTING A LUNCH OR DINNER? I EXPECT THE POPULATION COUNCIL AND OTHER PRIVATE AGENCIES LIKE FORD AND ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATIONS WOULD

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BE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO FILL OUT THE SCHEDULE OF SUCH A VISIT, BUT IT WILL NEED A MORE OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP TO BE ACCEPTABLE HERE. I WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY LESSEN THE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE USE OF IV FUNDING WHICH YOU CITE IN YOUR MESSAGE, SOME OF WHICH I'D TOUCHED ON EARLIER.

3. AS TO TIMING, MINISTER AS REPORTED EARLIER IS TO GO TO WESTERN
EUROPE IN MID-AUGUST. THEREFORE INVITATION FOR LATER
THAT MONTH WOULD BE OPTIMAL. RAJ NARAIN EXPECTS TO PRESENT AN
AMBITIOUS NEW NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN TO THE NEXT SESSION OF
THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT WHICH ORDINARILY BEGINS IN NOVEMBER.
MINISTER'S STAFF HAS INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE US BEFORE
THAT. THEREFORE THOUGH SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER MAY ALSO BE FEASIBLE,
AUGUST IS CLEARLY MORE DESIRABLE
GOHEEN

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